

where she teaches and mentors mild to moderate special needs students. Drawing from the inspiration of her late-mother, grandmother, and late-class assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth prepares her students for their future by teaching them life and work skills so they can be productive citizens.

Mrs. Ainsworth attributes her success to unconditional love, hard work, and her dedication to making a difference in her students' lives.

Too often, people focus on the broken portions of our education system. We must recognize and celebrate our educators that go above-and-beyond their job duties, like Mrs. Ainsworth.

Our nation's teachers, especially our special education teachers, dedicate their lives to enriching the lives of our children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Ainsworth, and all of our country's educators, for their selfless commitment to our country's future.

#### THE ARC THRIFT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Arc Thrift Stores for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and not for profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

The Arc Thrift is a 45 year old non-profit, with 21 stores across Colorado employing over 1,200 people. They are one of the largest integrated employers of people with disabilities in Colorado. The Arc Thrift Chapters provide the disabled community with help finding jobs, housing, medical assistance and services in schools. Also proving they are good stewards of the environment, last year the Arc Thrift organization diverted 20 million pounds of merchandise from Colorado landfills.

I congratulate the Arc Thrift stores for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary. I thank all the employees of the Arc Thrift for their continued commitment to the people they serve.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and achievements of General John Shalikashvili of Peoria, Illinois, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997, and is being honored in a park dedication on May 17th.

General Shalikashvili was born in 1936 in Warsaw to Georgian exiles. His family sur-

vived the German occupation of Poland and the destruction of Warsaw during WWII and in 1952, when he was 16, he moved with his family to Peoria. When he arrived, speaking little English, he would leave Peoria High School at the end of the day and visit the local movie theater to help himself learn the language. In 1958, after Shalikashvili graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in mechanical engineering, he received his draft notice. He entered the Army as a private before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and embarking on a distinguished career that would span almost 40 years.

Under President George H.W. Bush, Shalikashvili served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander. After the first Gulf War, he served as Commander of Operation Provide Comfort, the peacekeeping and humanitarian action in northern Iraq. In 1993, General Shalikashvili was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Clinton, where he served until his retirement in 1997. He was the first foreign-born man to hold the position, as well as the first draftee to ever rise to become Chairman.

General Shalikashvili passed away in July, 2011, and was honored by the Presidents he served under and his fellow military leaders. President Clinton remembered that "he never minced words, he never postured or pulled punches, he never shied away from tough issues or tough calls, and most important, he never shied away from doing what he believed was the right thing."

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Peoria for recognizing Shalikashvili's patriotism and dedicated service, and I hope those who visit General Shalikashvili Park continue to be inspired by his incredible story.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF CLAIRE THOMAS

### HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Thomas. Claire Thomas established The Root Connection in 1987 as the first Community Supported Agriculture farm in Washington State.

She started with a quarter acre of rented land in the Sammamish Valley between Woodinville and Redmond, just 18 miles from downtown Seattle. She improved soil, purchased land, and increased acreage until she now farms 20 acres.

Claire's farm is organic, and applies the same intensive growing techniques used by many home gardeners. The result is enough for about 600 families, a production rate six times that of farms using normal commercial agricultural practices.

The Root Connection provides its members a close connection to the land that grows their produce. Families pick up their produce at the farm, and can go out into the fields to harvest herbs and flowers.

In 2012, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert awarded Claire the King County Rural Small Business of the Year Award.

In addition to The Root Connection, Claire manages 47 acres of farmland and water

rights, advocates for farmland preservation, and helps run a non-profit that obtains fresh produce weekly from four local farms and distributes it through local food banks.

I want to honor Claire's commitment and drive to overcoming food insecurity by creating a means to get healthful food directly from farms to the homes that need it most.

#### HONORING ISABEL MARIE ZUREK

### HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we honor Isabel Marie Zurek, one of the many women who rose up to help the wartime effort during WWII. Ms. Zurek is proudly recognized as a "Rosie the Riveter" who worked in one of the many factories in Detroit during the war. Now celebrating her 90th birthday, we honor the life and accomplishments of Isabel Marie Zurek.

#### HONORING MR. ED VAN BUREN

### HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ed Van Buren, an American hero and Army veteran from back in my home district in Florida who recently passed away. Mr. Van Buren was a patriot and family man who constantly strove to help his fellow veterans. I have had the privilege and distinct honor of speaking with his wife and son, Vickie and Ben, and learned just how great of an American he was. I would like to share his story.

Ed was proud not only to have served his country, but he was honored to have been both the son and father of a veteran. After Mr. Van Buren left the military, he continued to serve his nation in the General Services Administration as a computer specialist. These principles of service and education are ones that we must pass on to the next generation of Americans.

After retirement, Mr. Van Buren never faltered from his sacred mission of assisting veterans any way he could. He commanded American Legion Post 16 and was a member of the American Legion honor society. As the Chairman of the Veteran's Advisory Board, Alachua County is indebted to the service of Mr. Van Buren. In all of his roles, he championed assisting and advocating for his fellow veterans and their families.

About a year ago, Mr. Van Buren was diagnosed with lung cancer, but his commitment to improving the lives of others never wavered. Though Ed lost his battle with cancer, the impact he has made in the life of each and every veteran he helped will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the life of a distinguished citizen patriot, Ed Van Buren.